

Community Visioning and Goal Setting

The Cluster 6 Visioning Session was held on Monday October 6, 1997 at the Dexter Elmhurst Center. Approximately 40 community residents, representing block clubs, local institutions, and neighbors, were in attendance. The presentation began with the key components of the planning process. Planning was described as a powerful tool for people to use to achieve their vision for the future. Visioning was explained to emphasize its purpose and function.

Visioning

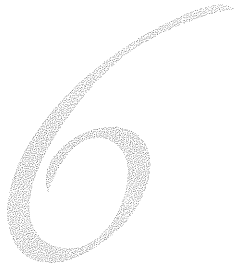
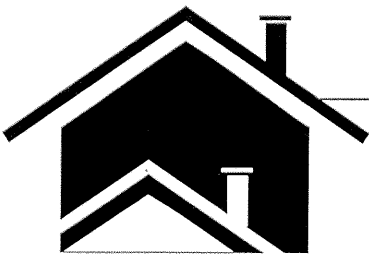
- Evaluates present conditions
- Identifies strengths
- Identifies problem areas
- Builds consensus on what participants want their community to be

Expected Outcome: A neighborhood plan that represents a shared vision for change and guides future neighborhood reinvestment in the special issue areas.

To facilitate the process the participants received basic guidelines for participating in the visioning process. Participants were divided into groups by issue area. There were approximately five to ten participants in each group. Each group was directed to brainstorm around what they believed the issues were for each area. A summary of issues identified through the focus group was used to stimulate discussion. After concluding this process the groups were then directed to form a vision based on PARK categories for goal setting, as outlined in "Neighborhood Planning: A Guide for Citizens and Planners." (APA 1990) The PARK categories are:

- **P**reserve (what we have now that is positive)
- **A**dd (what we do not have that is positive)
- **R**emove (what we have that is negative)
- **K**eep out (what we do not have that is negative)

The following listing represents the goals (with minimal editing for clarification only) that were derived from a prioritizing of the issues identified through the visioning process.



Cluster 6 GOALS

Neighborhood Commercial

Strip malls with essential services (bakeries, dry cleaners, shoe repair, bank, grocery store, veterinary services).

Stop defining the Cluster based on the poverty level and recognize the neighborhoods as an untapped market.

Improved public relations to encourage commercial development.

Improved security/policing for commercial facilities including enforcement of existing codes **and** ordinances and anti-drug ordinances.

Competitive insurance companies to provide insurance for businesses, and stop predatory practices.

Housing

Add additional housing inspectors and increase the amount of fines, i.e. absentee landlords.

Reserve first, demolish last, the remaining housing stock throughout the use of tax credits, etc.

Add authority to block clubs to issue tickets (grass, alley, etc.)

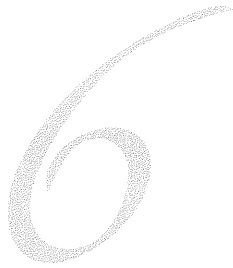
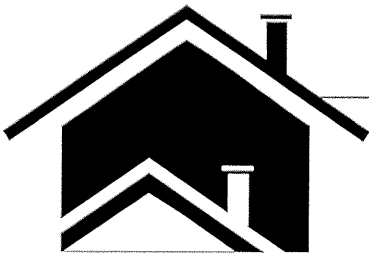
Add in-fill housing comparable to existing housing.

Remove old criteria for home repair programs and include handicap, seniors, low income and tornado victims.

Youth Development

Mandatory parenting classes for FIA recipients, juvenile offenders, including parents and children.

Improve playgrounds to be clean, safe and maintained.



Have schools be more responsible for I.D. problems.

Increased funding of community based organizations.

Accessible drug treatment programs for young adults.

Reactive family oriented centers.

Job Center

Establish collaborative partnerships whose focus would be economic (creating Jobs) in response to downsizing (skill building and job training for all residents, including the disabled population).

Increase the opportunity for employment and recreation for youth as a means of reducing youth violence.

Preserve the residential zoning.

Environmental

Increase community watches.

Utilize a more proactive approach to eliminating lead and asbestos.

Enforce all the laws on the books regarding illegal dumping and trash, all potential environmental hazards.

Transportation

Expand SMART and DDOT so that it serves the sector.